

Greenwood: 8:55am Stu House re Browning church- some new info.

Full report on church burning:

A Negro Baptists church burned to the ground in a predominately white community named Browning, Miss., at approximately 3:30am, July 11. The name of the church was the Pleasant Plan Missionary Baptist Church. There is no record of civil rights meeting in this church.

An unidentified Negro boy arrived on the scene while the church was still burning. He said that the fire truck was parked approximately 1000 feet away. He said that the truck was not attempting to control the fire. When the church was investigated by two SNCC workers at 7am the rafters were still burning. Fire had obviously not been dampened.

A Moose Lodge meeting was reported to be going at full tilt as late as 2am by a local ~~black~~ Negro woman Mrs. Laura McGee. She reports that after 2am she heard a procession of cars pass her home in the direction of the church. She says that she feels that they were stopping in the general vicinity of the church.

Jesse Johnson, a local white was reported to have asked the congregation to sell him the building and grounds. He had recently bought the surrounding property. The congregation refused to sell.

Mrs. McGee also reports that she was told by the local sheriff that he would trade the church for a local county school. When she remarked that it was impossible to trade a private church for a public school building he remarked that the church would have to be moved. The Rev. of the church is ~~Rev.~~ Rev. J./R. Rouse.

The SNCC office just called Sheriff Smith of Leflore County at 8:10am. He stated that he investigated the fire site at approx. 7am. He said that he had turned the case over to the state fire marshall Lewis Hopkins, Loula, Miss. Ed Rudd, Dick Frey and Fred Mangrum are going out to the church again and expect to return in about 1 hour. Hopkins will determine whether the fire was caused by arson. Sheriff Smith said the marshall was to arrive in Greenwood at noon to begin his investigation.

Enfield: J.V. Henry

The Klan has been active in the Halifax area again. Last week a cross was burned across from the home of Willa Johnson, ~~black~~ ~~black~~ Her teaching contract had not been renewed this summer because of her participation in voter registration, and she recently filed a suit in federal court for her reinstatement.

the Negro community in

Also last week the Klan had a motorcade through Williamstown, Martin County, about 35 miles from Enfield. ~~As~~ As the Klan drove through the community shooting it was met by return shots from Negroes. This has happened before, however, so J.V. expects that they will return.

Another group of students and ministers is going into Elma City on Monday to begin ~~black~~ painting the Negro church again. The Klan had offered to paint the church in order to dissuade the new group from coming in, ~~black~~ ~~black~~ The church group will stay in Rocky Mountain rather than Elm City.

In Enfield they are emphasizing their citizenship program. There are 12 schools with an average of 10-12 students in a class. SCLC teachers are conducting the classes.

Selma: Tom Brown: 5pm

The following people are to be bonded out today: Joh Love, Eric Farnum, Frances Mitchell, Ernie Mac Millan, Karen House. Peter Hall feels that the others will ~~be~~ probably be out by Monday.
